



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

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## TOPEKA, KANSAS WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO OBSTRUCTING A HEALTH CARE FRAUD INVESTIGATION

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren and Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline announced that **Cynthia Maze Moten**, 34, Topeka, Kansas, entered a guilty plea today before U.S. District Judge Sam A. Crow to **one count of obstruction of a health care fraud investigation and one count of forfeiture of \$2.3 million.**

Melgren stated that Moten admitted at her plea that from January 1998 through January 2003, she and co-defendant Molly Meier were the owners of several businesses including Toddler Town Day Care, M & M Transportation, Inc., a commercial non-ambulance medical transportation company, and Toddler Transport, Inc., a commercial non-ambulance medical transport company. Moten further admitted that she obstructed a health care fraud investigation of her businesses in an attempt to conceal from the government, including Medicaid and law enforcement authorities, that she was making false claims to Medicaid. Moten admitted that she submitted false claims to Medicaid for transportation services that were not for a medical purpose including trips to a swimming pool, fast food restaurants, a park, movie theaters, a zoo, a bowling alley, a museum, and a library. Moten admitted that the loss to Medicaid was over \$2.3 million. Moten further admitted that in response to an official subpoena for records she falsified documents to support previously submitted Medicaid claims for transportation services and delivered the manufactured documents to investigators.

Medicaid allows payment for transportation services that are provided to a Medicaid beneficiary that are for a medical purpose. Day care, even special purpose day care, is not a medical service. Toddler Town Day Care was a partially and provisionally licensed special purpose child day care facility with buildings at 616 and 630 Western Avenue in Topeka, Kansas.

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Moten faces a maximum of five years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for August 11, 2004, at 10:00 a.m.

Melgren said that **co-defendant Molly Meier**, 34, Topeka, Kansas, entered a guilty plea on March 30, 2004, to one count of **conspiracy to defraud Medicaid and one count of forfeiture of all proceeds resulting from the conspiracy**. Meier faces a maximum of five years in federal prison, without parole, for conspiracy to defraud Medicaid. Sentencing is set for June 29, 2004 at 2:00 p.m.

The case is the result of a three-year investigation by the Kansas Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud and Abuse Division and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Kansas Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud and Abuse Division and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General in this investigation and Assistant Attorney General and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Loren Snell, Deputy Attorney General and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Rex Beasley, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Tanya Treadway in this prosecution.